

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 18 is added.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claims 1-17. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the claims appear to be a direction translation from a foreign language, and that a whereby clause in claim 3 is missing, and that claim 3 is otherwise unclear. This objection is respectfully traversed. Applicants assert that claims 1-17 are clear as written, and that claim 3 does not require a whereby clause.

II. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to connect a pair of adjacent external electrodes to the electrodes of the piezoelectric resonator, since this is merely a rearranging of parts involving routine skill in the art.

The Office Action cites *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70. See MPEP §2144.04 (VI)(C). Japikse involved changing the position of a starter switch wherein the operation of the device would not be modified. Thus, in Japikse, the rearrangement provided no benefit. As discussed in the specification, at paragraph [0011], a wiring pattern need not be formed along the piezoelectric resonator element for the purpose of electrically connecting the IC of the substrate and the external electrode of the piezoelectric resonator resulting in reduced mounting area of the piezoelectric resonator and the reduction in size of electronic equipment. Furthermore, the parasitic capacitance of the piezoelectric resonator can be lowered and oscillation characteristics can be enhanced. Thus, the operation of the device is modified and enhanced. Finally, as discussed in MPEP §2144.04 (VI)(C), the mere fact that the parts can be arranged, is not by itself sufficient to support a finding of obviousness. The prior art must

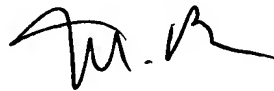
provide a motivation, without the benefit of Applicants' specification, to make the necessary changes in the reference device.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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